

Heaton), published by Robertson of Sydney, 1879, the *London Times* of 17 Feb., 1939, *Gentleman's Magazine* of 1840, *History of the British Legion and the War in Spain*, by Alexander Somerville, published London, 1839, and other sources, give the following picture of the life of this worthy officer.

Born in Sydney, N.S.W., on 13 Jan., 1812, he was the eldest child of Lt.-Gen. Sir Maurice Charles Philip O'Connell. He accompanied his parents to Ceylon in 1814 and, after the death of Robert, in 1819, was sent to England to be educated, first at Dr. Pinchney's school at East Shean, and then at Edinburgh High School. Thence he went to Dublin, but does not appear as an Alumnus of T.C.D., as he was too young. He went to Paris and was a student at the military college of Charlemagne, yet with all that, he entered the army in 1829 at the age of 17, as an ensign in his father's regiment, the 73rd Foot. For three years he served at Malta and Gibraltar, and in 1831 went with the regiment to Jersey, where he acted as its adjutant till 1835, being promoted to lieutenant in that year. In 1835, under the Order in Council of William IV—at the age of 23—he obtained leave to raise a battalion of the British Legion for service in Spain, to defend the Queen and the Constitution of that country, and so, on 24 July, 1835, he was placed on half pay. The day after he had married Elizabeth, dau. of Col. Philip Le Geijt, of the 63rd Regiment. In September and within 7 weeks of his marriage, he had raised his Regiment—the 10th Munster Light Infantry, and been gazetted lieutenant-colonel of it, and sailed, away to Spain. He "sure was a fast mover." He fought (with the rank of colonel) for Queen Isabella against the Carlists and seems to have had a stirring time, several times being ambushed and being in lots of scraps, and on one occasion narrowly escaping capture by guerillas, and was several times mentioned in despatches and general orders. On the retirement of Sir Gaspard Le Marchant, O'Connell was appointed Deputy Adjutant-General and then General of Brigade in command of the New British Auxiliary Legion in 1837—at the age of 25. In 1837 the Legion was disbanded at San Sebastian and O'Connell returned to England, much disgruntled at the financial treatment of himself and his men, but he had been created a Knight of the Cross Extraordinary of Charles III, of the Cross of the 2nd Class of the Order of San Fernando and of the Cross of the Order of Isabella the Catholic conferred on him by the Queen of Spain. So had not done so badly. Strangely enough his ribbons of these Orders (woven as one piece) were recently discovered by the writer in the records of one of the descendants of his sister, where their existence was unknown. Permission to wear these ribbons and orders on all occasions was granted in the *London Gazette* of 27 May, 1840.

As can well be imagined, he formed rather an indigestible quantity when, in 1838, at the age of 26, covered with medals (no, with Crosses), an ex-Brigadier from a real live war, whilst his colleagues in the Regiment had seen no active service for 23 years, he returned to the Regiment as a 1st Lieutenant in the 51st Foot (2nd York West Riding Light Infantry). However, he was promoted to a Captaincy in the 28th Regiment (The Glo'sters) on 22 June, 1838, and accompanied his father, now Commander of the Forces, to Australia as Military Secretary. When the Regiment was recalled in 1846 he sold out of the army and "settled in the mother colony" (N.S.W.), following pastoral pursuits, particularly the breeding of horses, on which he became one of the leading authorities in Australia. He identified himself with all important social and political affairs and sat as a representative for Sydney, in the Liberal interest, in the First Legislative Council of 1843, but in Aug., 1845, was returned for Port Philip. On 7 Nov., 1848, he retired from the Legislative Council on being appointed Commissioner for "Crown lands beyond the settled districts of the Colony in the Burnett District." In 1853 he was requested to undertake the settlement of Port Curtis, of which, in Jan., 1854, he was appointed Government Resident as well as Commissioner for Crown Lands and Police Magistrate. His efforts were highly successful, but at much personal cost to himself and in face of considerable discouragement. He was deprived of his post of Resident on the erection of the Moreton Bay district into the separate Colony of Queensland, and his name now becomes identified with the political life of the new Colony of Queensland.

In 1859 he was nominated by Sir George Bower to be a member of the first Legislative Council of Queensland, and was one of the Commissioners to open Parliament, 22 May, 1860. From 22 May, 1860—28 Aug., 1860 he was member without portfolio of the Herbert Ministry. In 1861 he became President of the Council, and he continued to hold this post till his relatively early death on 23 March, 1879. He fulfilled his duties with invariable courtesy, dignity and impartiality, and he is credited with a prominent share in the promotion of primary and secondary education. He constantly urged the necessity of a religious element in the school curriculum. His general tone of mind was very conservative.

Four times it fell to his lot, as President of the Council, to administer the Government in the interregnum between two Governors. First, from 4 Jan.,—14 Aug., 1868, on the departure of Sir George Bower. On this occasion he entertained H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh, who afterwards became Reigning Grand Duke of Saxe Coburgh Gotha (the second son of Queen Victoria). Secondly, from 2 Jan.—12 Aug., 1871, after the death of Col. Blackall. Thirdly, from 12 Nov., 1874—23 Jan., 1875, after the departure of the Marquis Normandy to become Governor of New Zealand. Fourthly, in 1877, for less than a month. In 1868 he was knighted. He was Provincial Grand Master in Masonry of Queensland, under the